

9 new drill sergeants don 'brown rounds'

Sgt. Joseph St. PETER
100th Division PA

"I am a Drill Sergeant."

This brief statement, the introduction to the Army's Drill Sergeant Creed, was uttered loudly and proudly by nine of the 100th Division's (IT) non-commissioned officers Saturday, May 17 after they had donned their fabled Army drill sergeant "brown-rounds" for the first time.

This donning took place when 100th Division's Fort Knox-based Drill Sergeant School, along with the Army Reserve's 84th Division (IT) Drill Sergeant School conducted their graduation ceremonies for drill sergeant Classes No. 03-01 and No. 02-03 before an audience of family, friends, and military dignitaries at Fort Knox's Olive Theatre.

The 100th Division's nine newest drill sergeants began their intensive training and road to this graduation ceremony in February, partaking in a condensed four-month long drill sergeant training program, according to the Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Willis, the commandant of the 100th Division's Drill Sergeant School. The drill sergeant candidates regimen included physical training, drill and ceremony modules, basic rifle marksmanship, as well as various other common soldiering tasks they will be responsible for teaching new Army recruits while they perform duty as drill sergeants.

The four-month long school consisted of a two-week long training period in February, as well as three weekend drill periods in March, and two weekend drills in April, accord-

New instructors

Graduates of Class No. 03-01 of the 100th Division (IT) DSS

- Staff Sgt. Dorian Adkins
- Staff Sgt. Charles Kelly
- Staff Sgt. Scott King
- Staff Sgt. William Marcum
- Staff Sgt. James Nelson
- Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Shipmon
- Sgt. James Brown
- Sgt. Thaddeus Dodds
- Sgt. John Emery

ing to Sgt. 1st Class Freddy Guy, a Drill Sergeant Leader at the DSS and class No. 03-01's platoon sergeant. The class closed out their training with another two-week long training period in May.

The outstanding work that the nine graduating NCOs of Class #03-01 performed during this period did not go unnoticed, according to Guy.

"This class was one of the best I've ever dealt with," said Guy. "These soldiers were highly motivated, and I would serve on the 'trail' with any one of them."

The hard work and long hours put in during this short period of time were well worth it, according to Class # 03-01's Distinguished Honor Graduate, Sgt. James Brown of the 100th Division's Alpha Co., 4/398 of the 2nd Brigade.

"I've been chasing this dream since day one in the military. When I went in to my recruiter, I told him I wanted to be a drill sergeant...It's an honor not only to be the honor graduate, but just to be able to come to the school," said Brown.

Guy said that Brown set the tone

for the entire class, and was well deserving of his honor graduate status.

"Sgt. Brown is an overall great soldier. He was always helpful with the other soldiers, he was motivated, well-mannered, and always had a squared-away uniform," said Guy.

Command Sgt. Maj. Willis echoed Guy's thoughts about Brown, and as well as about the entire graduating drill sergeant class.

"It was a small class, but one with lots of quality and comraderie," said Willis. "I was real proud of all of them."

Although drill sergeant school was demanding, the new drill sergeants will face even tougher tasks as they move forward and actually teach basic training and advanced individual training recruits how to be soldiers, according to the 100th Division Commander and graduation ceremony guest speaker, Maj. Gen. John R. Tindall.

"It takes a special person to take ours sons and our daughters... out of high school and off the streets of America... take them to the breaking point, and then rebuild them into a soldier. These drill sergeants have that awesome responsibility," said Tindall. "Drill sergeants are special."

The newest drill sergeants of the 100th Division seemed to gladly embrace these challenges that await them as they move out onto the drill sergeant "trail" for the first time. This was quite evident at the close of the graduation ceremony as Olive Theater echoed with the resounding ring of Class No. 03-01 sounding off in cadence, "I am a Drill Sergeant."